

Claims

1. (currently amended) A method of communicating with a user of a processor-based device over a network, the method comprising:
 - providing a body-less electronic mail message having a subject line and lacking a message body capable of receiving message content;
 - receiving a text message into the subject line of the body-less electronic mail message; and
 - transmitting the body-less electronic mail message to the user over the network.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the subject line of the body-less electronic mail message includes one or more other text messages taken from a subject line of a previous body-less electronic mail message.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the subject line of the body-less electronic mail message includes one or more other text messages taken from a chat conversation converted into a format of a body-less electronic mail message.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving the body-less electronic mail message over the network, displaying the body-less electronic mail message on a display screen as a line item in a mailbox view, and displaying on the display screen an entire contents of the subject line when a cursor is positioned over a subject column of the line item.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving the body-less electronic mail message over the network, displaying the body-less electronic mail message on a display screen as a line item in a mailbox view having a column for the subject line, and displaying on the display

5 screen a scroll bar arrow at one end of the subject line column, when a
6 cursor is positioned over the subject column of the line item, for
7 horizontally scrolling through the contents of the subject line.

1 6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising inserting a
2 delimiter into the subject line to separate the text message from a
3 previous text message currently included in the subject line.

1 7. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising converting the
2 body-less electronic mail message to an online electronic chat
3 conversation.

1 8. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising converting a chat
2 conversion into a body-less electronic mail message.

1 9. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising displaying on a
2 user interface a chat-like graphical window for engaging in synchronous
3 chat in response to receiving the body-less electronic mail message over
4 the network.

1 10. (currently amended) A computing system, comprising:

2 a display screen;

3 an input device;

4 a network interface; and

5 a processor running an electronic mail program to present to a
6 user on the display screen a body-less electronic mail message having a
7 subject line and lacking a message body capable of receiving message
8 content, wherein the user operates the input device to enter a text
9 message into the subject line of the body-less electronic mail message,
10 and the network interface transmits the body-less electronic mail

11 message having the text message in the subject line over a network.

1 11. (Original) The computing system of claim 10, wherein the electronic mail
2 program places in the subject line of the body-less electronic mail
3 message one or more other text messages taken from a subject line of a
4 previously received body-less electronic mail message.

1 12. (Original) The computing system of claim 10, wherein the electronic mail
2 program displays the body-less electronic mail message on a display
3 screen as a line item in a mailbox view and displays an entire contents of
4 the subject line when a cursor is positioned over a subject column of the
5 line item.

1 13. (Original) The computing system of claim 10, wherein the electronic mail
2 program displays the body-less electronic mail message on a display
3 screen as a line item in a mailbox view and displays a scroll bar arrow at
4 one end of the subject line column, when a cursor is positioned over the
5 subject column of the line item, for horizontally scrolling through the
6 contents of the subject line.

1 14. (Original) The computing system of claim 10, wherein the electronic mail
2 program converts the body-less electronic mail message to an online
3 electronic chat conversation.

1 15. (Original) The computing system of claim 10, wherein the chat program
2 converts a chat conversion into a body-less electronic mail message.

1 16. (Original) The computing system of claim 10, wherein the network
2 interface communicates with the network over one of a wired and
3 wireless connection.

- 1 17. (Original) The computing system of claim 10, wherein the computing
2 system is one of a computer, a workstation, a personal digital assistant,
3 a cellular telephone, and an online gaming platform.
- 1 18. (currently amended) An apparatus for communicating with a user of a
2 processor-based device over a network, the apparatus comprising:
3 means for providing a body-less electronic mail message having a
4 header and lacking a message body capable of receiving message
5 content;
6 means for recording a temporal sequence of one or more text
7 messages into the header of the body-less electronic mail message; and
8 means for transmitting the body-less electronic mail message to
9 the user over the network.
- 1 19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 18, further comprising means for
2 displaying the body-less electronic mail message as a line item in a
3 mailbox view and for displaying the entire temporal sequence of one or
4 more text messages while in the mailbox view.
- 1 20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 18, further comprising means for
2 displaying the body-less electronic mail message as a line item in a
3 mailbox view and for horizontally scrolling through the sequence of one
4 or more text messages while in the mailbox view.
- 1 21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 18, further comprising means for
2 converting the body-less electronic mail message to an online electronic
3 chat conversation.
- 1 22. (Original) The apparatus of claim 18, further comprising means for
2 converting a chat conversation into a body-less electronic mail message.

1 23. (currently amended) A computer program product for use with a
2 computer system, the computer program product comprising a computer
3 useable medium having embodied therein program code comprising:
4 program code for providing a body-less electronic mail message
5 having a header and lacking a message body capable of receiving
6 message content;
7 program code for recording a temporal sequence of one or more
8 text messages into the header of the body-less electronic mail message;
9 and
10 program code for transmitting the body-less electronic mail
11 message to ~~the~~ a user over ~~the~~ a network.

1 24. (Original) The computer program product of claim 23, further
2 comprising program code for displaying the body-less electronic mail
3 message as a line item in a mailbox view and for displaying the entire
4 temporal sequence of one or more text messages while in the mailbox
5 view.

1 25. (Original) The computer program product of claim 23, further
2 comprising program code for displaying the body-less electronic mail
3 message as a line item in a mailbox view and for horizontally scrolling
4 through the sequence of one or more text messages while in the mailbox
5 view.

1 26.-32. (cancelled)